# Y'S MEN'S CONCERT SERIES

*-presents-*

## THE LESLIE BELL SINGERS

and

## Dr. LESLIE BELL

SAINT JOHN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM – FRIDAY, SEPT. 26th, 1952

# THE LESLIE BELL SINGERS

## Programme

I 1. Two Alleluias:
   (a) Alleluia ..... Mozart
   (b) Let All the Nations ..... Leisring
2. Our Father Which Art in Heaven ..... Tschaikowsky
3. Two Songs from the Hebrides: ..... .....
   (a) Eriskay Love Lilt .....
   (b) Road to the Isles .....
4. Irish Medley .....

II 1. Fantasy on Maritime Folk Songs .....
2. I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen ..... Irish
3. Le Fiacre ..... Sablon
4. The Lost Chord ..... Sullivan
5. Country Style ..... Burke & Van Heusen

III 1. Battle Hymn of the Republic .....
2. Beau Soir ..... Debussy
3. The N. A. M. S. S. C. B. ..... Loesser
4. Introducing Four Girls .....
5. Medley of Gershwin Tunes .....

Musical arrangements and direction by

*Leslie Bell, M. A., Mus. B.*

Acknowledgements:

Gowns by: Sherkin, Toronto

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under the supervision of the
WALTER THORNTON Model Agency.

Organized thirteen years ago as an alumni girls' chorus, the Leslie Bell Singers have earned an international reputation as an 'a capella' group. Critics in Canada and the United States hail them as "unrivalled" for their superb singing, beautiful voices, versatile reportoire, and for the freshness and charm of the choir itself. Indeed, the remarkable co-ordination of the Leslie Bell Singers and the genuine pleasure each member derives from participation in the singing group add to their over-whelming popularity.

A major contributing factor, of course, to the Bell Singers' reputation is the unique musical arrangements by Dr. Bell who possesses a rare combination of musicianship, diplomacy and discrimination Recognized throughout the world as a leading arranger of choral music, Leslie Bell arranges all types of music for 'a capella' or unaccompanied singing. Not handicapped, therefore, by the fact that fashion for the last three centuries has been to write choral music with accompaniment, the Bell Singers are not forced, like many present day choirs who have endeavoured to revive the 'a capella' tradition to confine their activities to the works of the early masters or to some specialized field such as that of Russian church music or the negro spiritual.

Three years ago, the Leslie Bell Singers enhanced their fame by receiving top billing on the Canadian General Electric program which will be heard every Sunday evening at .....over station .....commencing October 7th.

Praised by listeners and critics alike as "radio's" most distinguished musical entertainment, the Bell Singers are starred on the C.G.E. show with Howard Cable and his Orchestra, and baritone Charles Jordan.

Leslie Bell graduated in the darkest days of the depression—no time to think of pursuing the serious musical career he always wanted—that is, if he wanted to eat. Oddly enough, however, it was his music that won him his first job teaching English at Parkdale Collegiate where they also needed someone capable of directing a struggling school orchestra. It was at Parkdale that Leslie Bell and Howard Cable first met—as teacher and pupil respectively. While at Parkdale, he developed both school instrumental and choral music to a very high point and won recognition for his work by being appointed Music Director at the Ontario College of Education. During those years, Dr. Bell lectured at the Department of Education Summer School and at Queen's University School of Fine Arts, in the History of Music. While at the College of Education, he took his Doctor of Music degree (Mus.D.)

A few years ago, owing to the heavy demand of his radio and concert work, Dr. Bell resigned from the College of Education but remained as Professor of Choral Technique at the University of Toronto, and continues to publish arrangements of all types of music for 'a capella' singing, including several for Fred Waring. Lately he has taken on another job—writing a weekly "Music Notes" column for the Toronto Daily Star, and features for an American Music Magazine.

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*John Ruskin*

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